



Update: Summer 1996

Summertime is Analysis Time!

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The Maricopa County Comprehensive Planning Team has been hard at work this summer. We have already evaluated the results of the public meetings held in the spring, and we are currently evaluating the two Land Use and Transportation Alternatives that you commented on at the meetings. For a look at what is involved in the analysis, see page two. The team is also continuing to develop the Comprehensive Plan Elements. Since the last meetings we have published the Population Background Report, the Land Use Report, and the Land Use Attitudinal Survey. The team has also been active in continuing our public outreach program and preparing for the next round of community workshops in the fall. During May, we conducted a program on planning with students in the Deer Valley School District. You can read about it inside, and look for a display at the fall workshops. We have also been meeting with busi-

ness leaders, editorial boards and civic groups to brief them on the Comp Plan. Maintaining good communications with citizens, community leaders, the private sector and local governments is a key factor in the development of a final

The Comp Plan Goes On-Line

For all the latest information on the Comprehensive Plan, check out our new website at <http://nova.mcdot.maricopa.gov/transplan/transplan.html>. You will find an overview of the Comprehensive Plan, frequently asked questions, electronic copies of the background reports, updates on events and more. You can also request to be placed on our e-mail list to receive electronic notification of Comp Plan events.

Alternatives Evaluation Underway

The Comp Plan Team has been busy this summer with the evaluation of the plan alternatives. When completed, the evaluation will provide a look at how each plan will affect many aspects of life in Maricopa County. Most important, we will look at how each alternative supports the long-range vision and the county-wide goals developed at the community workshops. We will also evaluate how the land use and transportation plans contribute to improving the quality of life in the county. This will be measured by how the plans can relieve congestion, improve air quality, provide educational opportunities and housing, support community services, preserve open space and agriculture, encourage appropriate economic development, sustain water supply, and

manage wastewater. The impact each alternative will have on the cost of county government is being considered in the Fiscal Impact Analysis.

The evaluation process will contribute to the selection of a final land use and transportation plan. However, the final plan will be heavily influenced by the residents, property owners and businesses in the unincorporated areas of the county. You will have the opportunity to provide your insight

Fiscal Analysis Compares Costs of County Government

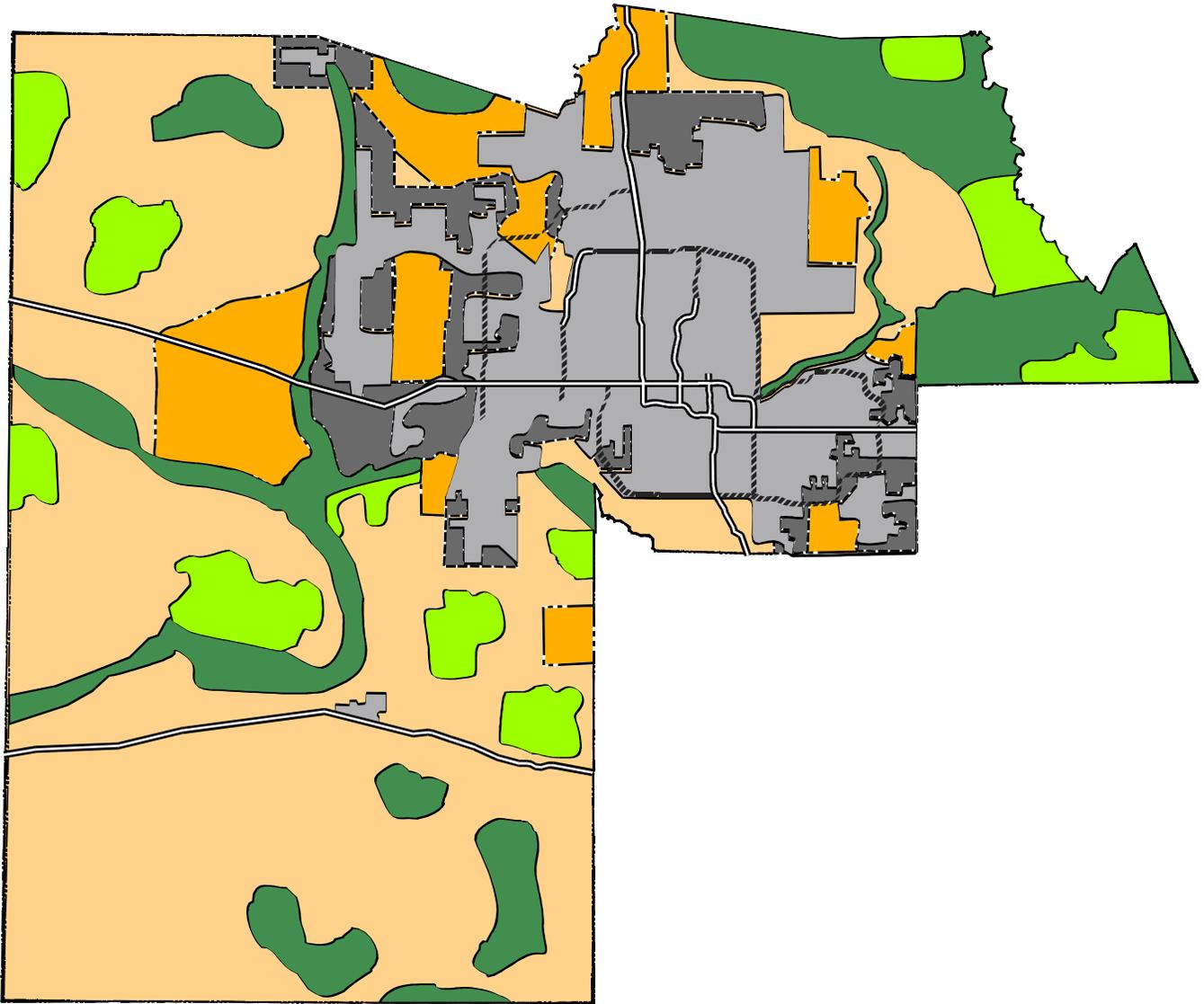
Keeping down the cost of government as the county grows is an ongoing challenge. There will be an ever greater demand for services as the population increases. Maricopa County is dedicated to providing these services as efficiently as possible. As the plan alternatives are developed, we can analyze how each alternative will affect the cost of providing services to the growth areas. This is called a fiscal impact analysis.

The fiscal impact analysis will consider the long term fiscal effects of the land use alternatives by:

- ▣ Predicting the cost to build and operate the facilities and programs needed to serve the new population;
- ▣ Estimating the amount of revenue generated by the new population and;
- ▣ Determining if the costs and revenues are balanced.

With this information, the team can compare the effect each alternative will have on the cost of government. This will contribute to the determination of the final plan.

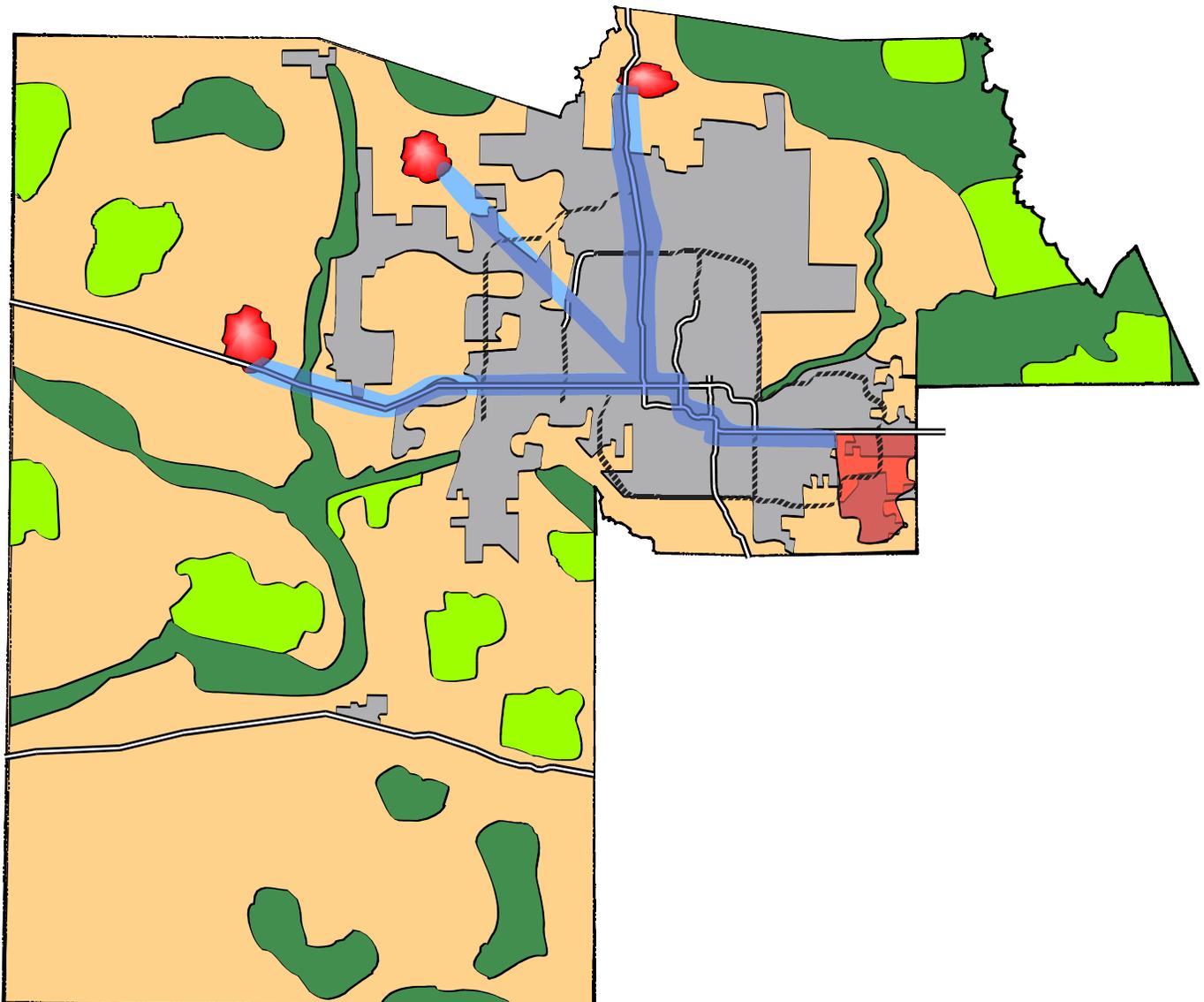
Alternative One



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|--|
|  | Incorporated Limits |  | Conservation Area |
|  | Interface Area |  | Low Density Rural Residential or Agriculture |
|  | County Area Plans |  | Existing Freeways |
|  | Secured Open Space |  | Planned Freeways |

Alternative Two



LEGEND

- | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|--|---|-------------------|
|  | Incorporated Limits |  | Conservation Area |  | Existing Freeways |
|  | Interface Area |  | Urban Growth Node |  | Planned Freeways |
|  | County Area Plans |  | Low Density Rural Residential or Agriculture |  | Transit Corridor |
|  | Secured Open Space | | | | |

County Residents Comment on Plan at Community Workshops

In February and March the planning team held public meetings throughout Maricopa County. We gave residents an update on the comprehensive planning process and listened to how people feel about the two proposed land use alternatives. Both pros and cons were expressed about the alternatives. The most frequent comments made are listed below:

Alternative 1

- i Allows growth consistent with the land
- i Preserves less land than Alternative 2
- i Promotes scattered development
- i Cities will expand
- i Follows existing municipal plans.

Alternative 2

- i Preserves more land than Alternative 1
- i Corridor concept seems sound
- i Satellite communities will never work
- i Provides jobs/housing balance in nodes
- i Less congested transportation corridors.

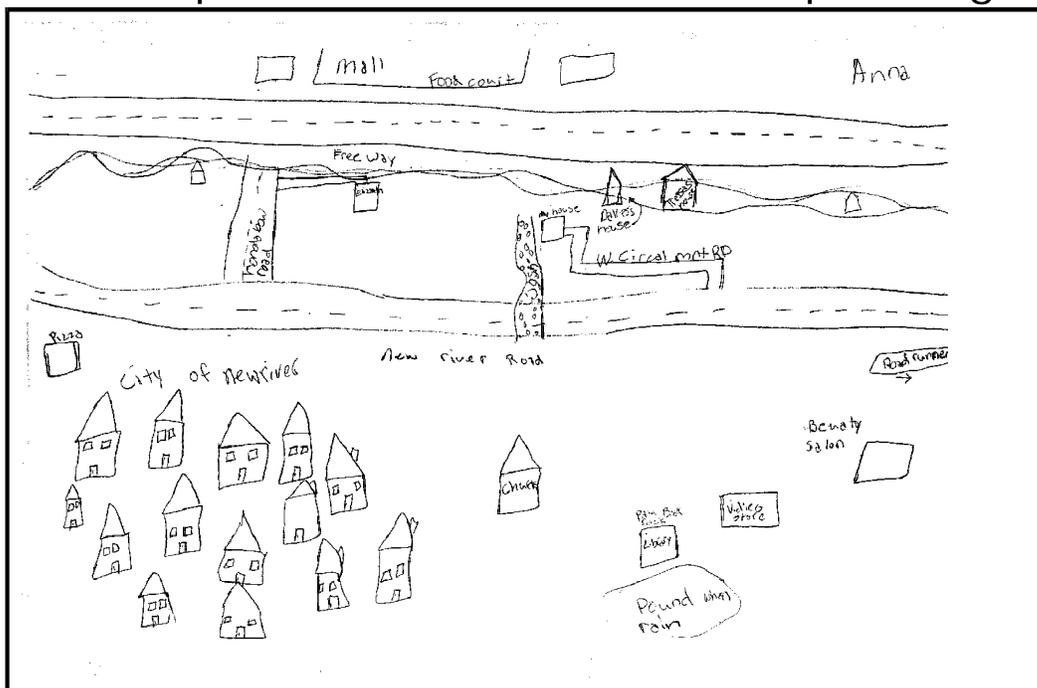
In addition to these issues, the majority of residents supported the Desert Spaces Plan in order to preserve open space and recreational opportunities, and would like to see improved public transportation throughout the region.

New River Students Join the Team!

The sixth grade students at Desert Mountain Middle School in New River have an "Eye to the Future." They have become active participants in developing the Comprehensive Plan. In May, the Comp Plan Team met with the students to discuss planning and listen to their ideas for the future of the county.

The two-day activity challenged approximately 80 students to think about the "tools" planners use and to consider various types of cities around the world. A slide show illustrated different types of urban design, development patterns, and transportation networks. To conclude the first day's activity, each student drew a map of the area.

On the second day, the students worked in groups to map out their ideas for the future of New River. In discussing their ideas, it was evident that preserving open space, providing more recreational opportunities, and building amusement parks were important to the students. The planning team is



Each student was challenged to draw a map of their community. The student drawing above shows familiar landmarks including the mall, the pizza shop and the video store.

Did You Know?

- i The 1995 Special Census counted 2,551,765 people in Maricopa County.
- i Maricopa County covers 9,226 square miles, about the size of Vermont.
- i Maricopa County is the sixth most populous county in the United States.
- i From 1980 to 1994, Maricopa County was the third fastest growing county in the nation.

What's Next

Look for our next newsletter in the fall. It will tell you more about the analysis of the alternatives, give you the dates for the fall community workshops, and update you on other activities. Once you have commented on the analysis at the workshops, we will begin to develop a draft final alternative. After the draft is completed, you will have an opportunity to

If you are not on the mailing list and would like to receive these newsletters, please call the Comp Plan Hotline at 506-5155 or visit us on-line at <http://nova.mcdot>.



Maricopa County Comprehensive Planning
Team

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